

HA-1837
1926
Bel Air
Private

The Russell McComas House, 147 Williams St., faces west in a block of mixed styles ranging from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher, which is typical of Richardson's Addition. A small but immaculate example of Bel Air's clapboard bungalows, the house has three louvered windows in its shed-roofed front and rear dormers. A front gable-roofed porch carried on four simple round posts lends a touch of elegance to this simple 3 bedroom house. The enclosure of the shed-roofed back (east) porch is the only exterior alteration. An oddity is the placement of the staircase along the north (kitchen) wall of the dining room, but it is the typical closed-string single run stair with square newel and balusters.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This rather plain clapboard bungalow was built in 1926 as a rental by contractor Harry Orsburn for the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443, HA-1444] near the now demolished train station. [Compare the earlier shingled bungalow built by Orsburn for the McComases in Ingleside in 1923, HA-1806.] In 1929 they sold it to second cousin Russell McComas, who has lived there ever since.

HA-1837
Russell McComas House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

 x 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. 100-1337

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Russell McComas House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 147 Williams St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. Russell McComas

street & number 147 Williams St. telephone no.: 838-3785

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 213

street & number folio 289

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-1537

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Russell McComas House, 147 Williams St., faces west in a block of mixed styles ranging from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher. A small but immaculate example of Bel Air's clapboard bungalows, the house has three louvered windows in its shed-roofed front and rear dormers. A front gable-roofed porch carried on four simple round posts lends a touch of elegance to this simple 3 bedroom house. The enclosure of the shed-roofed back (east) porch is the only exterior alteration. An oddity is the placement of the staircase along the north (kitchen) wall of the dining room, but it is the typical closed-string single run stair with square newel and balusters.

Entry is in the middle bay of the front (west) elevation; it leads directly to the living room, which occupies the whole front of the house. Dining room (north) and kitchen (south) complete the first story. The 3 bedrooms are small and shaped by the slope of the roof. Double-hung sash windows are paired in the north elevation, as are all but one window in the south (the living room one). Wood sheet paneling was added to the living room, dining room and front hall in the 1950s. Woodwork is plain through-out. The doors have 5 horizontal panels.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1537

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926 Builder/Architect McComas Bros.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition, begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center.

This rather plain clapboard bungalow was built in 1926 as a rental by contractor Harry Orsburn for the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443, HA-1444] near the now demolished train station. [Compare the earlier shingled bungalow built by Orsburn for the McComases in Ingleside in 1923, HA-1806.] In 1929 they sold it to second cousin Russell McComas, who has lived there ever since.

The only documented renter was Leland Reckord, brother to Gen. Milton Reckord, of Maryland's 29th Division. Leland was raised across the street at 162 Williams St. [HA-236] and later lived in one of the houses built by his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary J. Zimmerman, HA-1500, just a few doors north on Williams St., another example of the lasting appeal of Bel Air neighborhoods.

The enclosure of the back (east) porch and the application of sheet wood panels to the living room, dining room, and upstairs hall are the only alterations to the house, all of them by Russell McComas.

Survey No. RA-1837 .

Site visit and interview 23 Apr 1993

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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MARYLAND
DHCP/DHCL
100 COMMUNITY PLAC.
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2025
514-7600

HA-1837
Russell McComas House
147 Williams St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Russell McComas

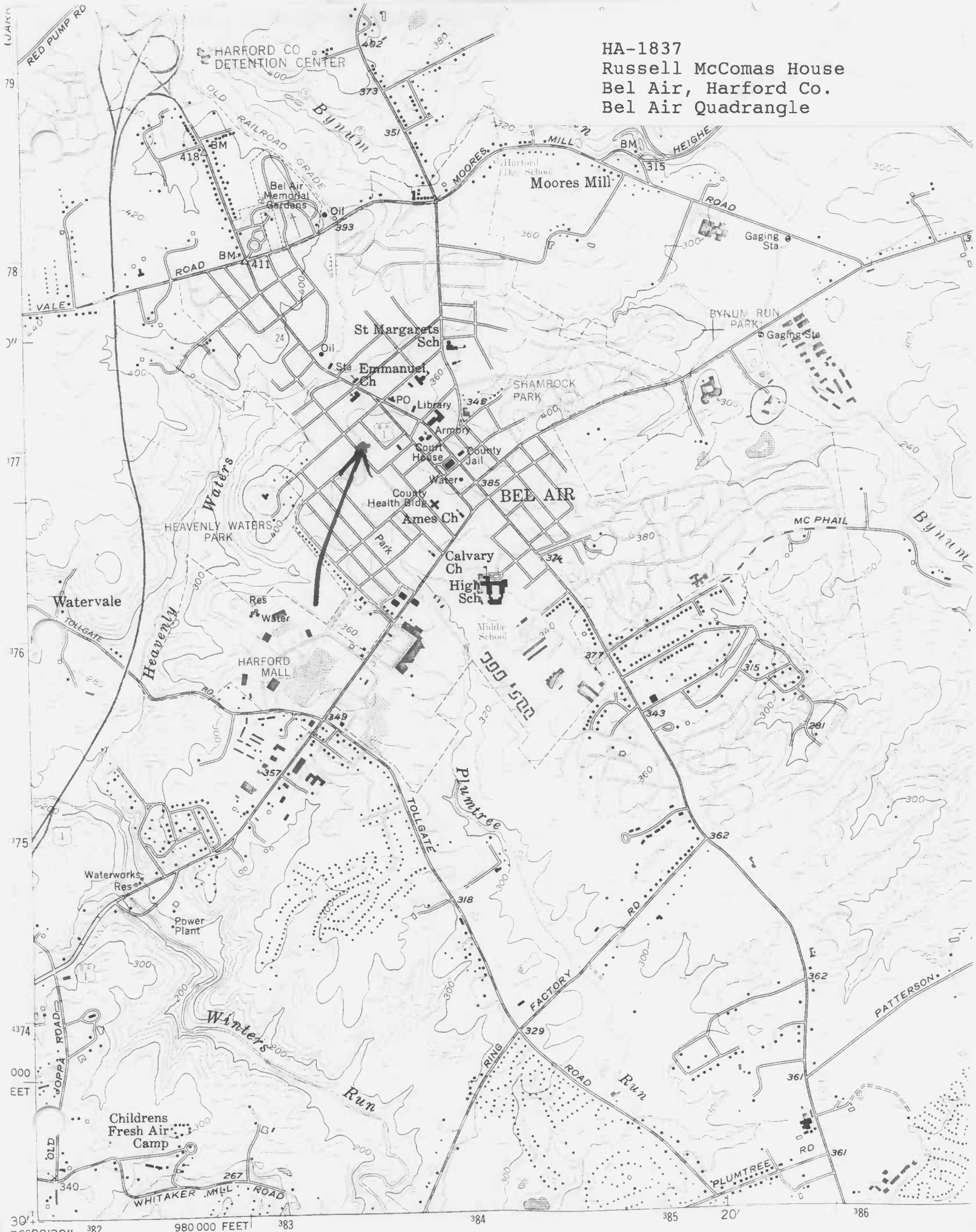
213/289 28 Sept 1929
McComas Brothers, M. Stanley and Sarah and Emory A. and
Mary B.
to
Russell McComas and Helen M.
50 ft. on Williams in Richardson's Addition

198/405 26 Mar 1926
W. Wylie Hopkins and Annabel W.
to
M. Stanley and Emory A. McComas

145/265 27 Apr 1917
Adelaide M. Bull and Charles A.
to
W. Wylie Hopkins

145/210 1 June 1914
Henrietta Rouse et al
to
Adelaide Bull
the Rouses and Miss Richardson owned Richardson's
Addition

HA-1837
 Russell McComas House
 Bel Air, Harford Co.
 Bel Air Quadrangle





1/2 - 700
1/2 - 700
1/2 - 700

1/2 - 700

1/2 - 700

1/2 - 700

1/2 - 700

1/2 - 700

147 WILLIAMS ST.

BEL AIR



Apr. 1937

147 WILLIAMS ST.
BEL AIR